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[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/425/Add.2)*]

72/237. South-South cooperation

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 64/222 of 21 December 2009, in which it endorsed the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,

Reaffirming also its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, in which it endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,[1]

Recalling its resolutions 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 60/212 of 22 December 2005, 62/209 of 19 December 2007, 63/233 of 19 December 2008, 64/1 of 6 October 2009, 66/219 of 22 December 2011, 67/227 of 21 December 2012, 68/230 of 20 December 2013, 69/239 of 19 December 2014, 70/222 of 22 December 2015 and 71/244 of 21 December 2016,

Reaffirming its resolution 71/318 of 28 August 2017, on the modalities of the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,

Reaffirming also its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August–12 September 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

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manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming further its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling its resolution 69/283 of 3 June 2015 on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement[2] and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[3] that that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Welcoming also the convening of the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the second part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, held in Bonn, Germany, from 6 to 17 November 2017,

Welcoming further the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016,[4]

Welcoming the convening of the first preparatory symposium for the 2018 Development Cooperation Forum, hosted by the Government of Argentina, from 6 to 8 September 2017, with the support of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, on the theme "South-South and triangular cooperation for achieving the 2030 Agenda. Building innovative and inclusive partnerships",

Noting that 2018 will mark the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action,

Recognizing that, since the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, South-South cooperation has intensified significantly, achieving a prominent level of institutionalization, increasingly engaging national and international players, fostering regional integration and strengthening its contribution to sustainable development in its three dimensions,

Recognizing also that South-South cooperation is increasingly critical to bolstering the productive capacities of developing countries and has positive impacts on trade and financial flows, technological capabilities and economic growth, and reiterating the importance of global partnerships,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

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[2] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822

[4] Resolution 71/256, annex.

Recommitting to ensuring that no country or person is left behind and to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

1. *Takes note* of the decisions adopted by the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its nineteenth session, held from 16 to 19 May 2016;[5]

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation[6] and his report entitled "Comprehensive proposal on concrete ways to enhance the role and impact of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation as well as the key measures taken to improve the coordination and coherence of United Nations support to South-South cooperation",[7] as well as the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on South-South and triangular cooperation in the United Nations system, of 2011, and the Secretary-General's response;[8]

3. *Reiterates its request* to the Joint Inspection Unit to present, by the end of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, a progress report on its recommendations to the United Nations development system on implementing measures to further strengthen the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation;

4. *Recognizes* the importance and unique history and particularities of South-South cooperation, reaffirms its view of South-South cooperation as a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South that contributes to their national well-being, national and collective self-reliance and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals,[9] which build upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seek to address their unfinished business, and also reaffirms that South-South cooperation and its agenda must be set by countries of the South and should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit;

5. *Stresses* that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation;

6. *Welcomes* the increased contributions of South-South cooperation to poverty eradication and sustainable development, encourages developing countries to voluntarily step up their efforts to strengthen South-South cooperation and to further improve its development effectiveness, in accordance with the provisions of the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,[10] and welcomes commitments to strengthen triangular cooperation as a means of bringing relevant experience and expertise to bear in development cooperation;

7. *Reaffirms* that South-South cooperation is a common endeavour of peoples and countries of the South, born out of shared experiences and sympathies, based on their common objectives and solidarity and guided by, inter alia, the principles of respect for national sovereignty and ownership, free from any conditionalities, that South-South cooperation should not be seen as official development assistance and that it is a partnership among equals based on solidarity, acknowledges in this regard the need to enhance the development effectiveness of South-South cooperation by

[5] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/71/39), chap. I.

[6] A/71/208.

[7] SSC/19/2.

[8] A/66/717 and A/66/717/Add.1.

[9] See resolution 70/1.

[10] Resolution 64/222, annex.

continuing to increase its mutual accountability and transparency as well as coordinating its initiatives with other development projects and programmes on the ground, in accordance with national development plans and priorities, and recognizes that the impact of South-South cooperation should be assessed with a view to improving, as appropriate, its quality in a results-oriented manner;

8. *Acknowledges* the progress made and encourages the continued integration of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation into the policies and strategic frameworks of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, and requests those funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system that have not yet integrated South-South and triangular cooperation into their policies to do so, taking into account the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[11] and the complementary nature of South-South to North-South cooperation;

9. *Reiterates its request* to the Chair of the United Nations Development Group to make specific recommendations on additional support that United Nations system organizations and all States could provide to South-South and triangular cooperation, which could include the voluntary secondment of staff and the appointment of Junior Professional Officers to the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, as well as measures to strengthen the system-wide efficiency and impact of the Office;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make necessary adjustments, as appropriate, to the framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation,[12] in consultation with all States and organizations of the United Nations development system;

11. *Reaffirms* the mandate and the central role of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation as the focal point for promoting and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation for development on a global and United Nations system-wide basis;

12. *Reiterates the request* to the Chair of the United Nations Development Group to establish a more formalized and strengthened inter-agency mechanism, coordinated by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, with a view to encouraging joint support to South-South and triangular initiatives and sharing information on development activities and results achieved by various organizations through their respective business models in support of South-South and triangular cooperation, calls upon the United Nations development system to designate representational focal points to join the mechanism, requests the Chair of the United Nations Development Group to give the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation the opportunity to be represented more regularly in strategic and coordination mechanisms of the United Nations Development Group when matters affecting South-South and triangular cooperation are being discussed, and in this regard welcomes the progress made by the South-South and Triangular Cooperation Task Team of the United Nations Development Group to this effect;

13. *Calls upon* the United Nations Development Programme and other relevant organizations of the United Nations development system to assist developing countries in implementing projects of South-South cooperation, including sharing best practices and experiences from the South, especially with the least developed

[11] Resolution 70/1.
[12] SSC/17/3.

countries, upon request and in a manner consistent with their mandates and strategic plans;

14. *Invites* the United Nations development system to encourage the transfer of technologies on mutually agreed terms for the benefit of developing countries to address poverty eradication and sustainable development;

15. *Welcomes* the launch, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, and looks forward to its continued development and full operationalization;

16. *Requests* the United Nations Development Group, including its South-South and Triangular Cooperation Task Team, and the United Nations country teams, within existing resources and in close consultation and coordination with the Governments of developing countries and other United Nations organizations, in particular the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to continue the mapping and documentation of good practices in South-South and triangular cooperation, in particular those that are relevant to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, taking into account the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda[13] and the complementary nature of South-South to North-South cooperation;

17. *Urges* the United Nations to continue to support South-South cooperation projects that contribute to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, adopted in Quito in 2016;[4]

18. *Takes note with appreciation* of the ninth annual Global South-South Development Expo, held from 27 to 30 November 2017, hosted by the Government of Turkey, on the theme "South-South cooperation in the era of economic, social and environmental transformation: road to the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action", which aims at showcasing sustainable development solutions that can be scaled up and replicated through South-South and triangular cooperation;

19. *Recognizes* the important role of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, and in this context requests the Secretary-General, with the support of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, to take steps, within existing resources, to update existing and to create appropriate new policy tools, in order that the United Nations system may effectively support Member States, upon request, in using South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation to assist in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

20. *Acknowledges* the positive efforts made by United Nations organizations to develop thematic strategies for the implementation of South-South cooperation, and in this regard urges the United Nations development system, in consultation with all States, to strive to increasingly leverage, as appropriate, South-South cooperation to bolster its impact in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

21. *Requests* the United Nations system to enhance its support in the areas where South-South cooperation has proved effective, namely capacity-building, regional integration, interregional linkages, infrastructure interconnectivity and the development of national productive capacities through exchanges of knowledge, technological innovations and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, and in

[13] Resolution 69/313, annex.

several areas of sustainable development such as poverty eradication and gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

22. *Welcomes* the support provided by developing countries to South-South and triangular initiatives aimed at improving nutrition and food security, and invites the replication of this approach in other relevant areas, drawing on the technical expertise of various United Nations organizations;

23. *Recognizes* the contribution of South-South cooperation in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in sustainable development, and encourages further efforts to mainstream gender perspectives in South-South and triangular cooperation;

24. *Notes* that, in response to the growing demand for support to South-South cooperation at the regional and subregional levels, the regional commissions have advanced South-South cooperation by undertaking policy research and analysis on issues of importance to their member States, convening high-level policy dialogues, forging strategic partnerships and promoting specific capacity development and other initiatives, and in this regard invites the regional commissions to support developing countries, upon request, in integrating the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into their nationally owned sustainable development strategies, in areas such as regional development planning and fiscal frameworks, and to help to promote policy coherence and coordination and the enhancement of the data and statistical capacities of member States for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

25. *Reaffirms* that South-South cooperation has a role to play as a strategic link between regions and embraces a multi-stakeholder approach, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector, civil society, academia and other actors that contribute to meeting development challenges and objectives in line with national development strategies and plans;

26. *Urges* the United Nations system to continue its support to regional and subregional organizations, enabling their member countries to build more partnerships and cross-border frameworks, with a view to promoting and scaling up best practices with the potential to benefit a large number of developing countries;

27. *Welcomes* the growing number of forums convened for Governments and other policymakers to discuss, in a participatory and inclusive manner, South-South cooperation initiatives and their contribution towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including addressing challenges, lessons learned and good practices in key areas;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present, as part of his comprehensive report to the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its twentieth session, in consultation with all States, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and the United Nations Development Programme, recommendations and an update on the concrete steps taken to strengthen the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, taking into account the need to enhance the role and improve the impact of the Office under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme, including in the areas of financial, human and budgetary resources and through the potential appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation, as well as to clarify the management relationships, reporting lines and functions and to improve transparency, accountability and efficiency, taking into account matters covered in the report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation on its nineteenth session,[14]

[14] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/71/39).

Committee decision 19/1 of 19 May 2016 and decision 2016/13 of 10 June 2016 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services;[15]

29. *Recognizes* the need to mobilize adequate resources for enhancing South-South and triangular cooperation, and in this context invites all countries in a position to do so to contribute, in support of such cooperation, to the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation and to the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, in accordance with its resolution 57/263 of 20 December 2002, and to support other initiatives for all developing countries, including technology transfer among developing countries on mutually agreed terms;

30. *Requests* the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation to continue to effectively provide the secretariat required by States in marking the fortieth anniversary of the adoption in 1978 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries;

31. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen and further invigorate South-South cooperation, in this regard reiterates its decision to convene the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, to be held in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March 2019;

32. *Calls upon* all Member States to participate fully and constructively in the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation to be held in Buenos Aires in 2019, and welcomes the Secretary-General's recommendation to the United Nations system to provide substantive inputs to inform discussions among the States in preparation for the Conference, through the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation as Conference secretariat;

33. *Welcomes* the generous offer by the Government of Argentina to host and assume all costs of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation;

34. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

35. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Operational activities for development", the sub-item entitled "South-South cooperation for development", unless otherwise agreed, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a comprehensive report on the state of South-South cooperation, including an assessment of the concrete measures taken by the United Nations development system to improve its support to South-South cooperation at the global, regional and national levels, as appropriate, and on the implementation of the present resolution, including all aspects set out in paragraph 28 above, on an exceptional basis and without setting any precedent for future reports of the Secretary-General.

74th plenary meeting
20 December 2017

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[15] See DP/2016/19.